TL 3129

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL
AMNISTÍA INTERNACIONAL
AMNISTIE INTERNATIONALE
МЕЖДУНАРОДНАЯ АМНИСТИЯ
منظمة العفو الدولية
國際特赦組織

URGENT ACTION

EXTERNAL **AI Index: ASA 21/78/96**

UA 272/96 Possible "disappearances" / Fear for safety **21 November 1996**

EAST TIMOR

Antonio da Silva Monteiro (29)
Paulo da Costa (17)
Armindo da Silva (31)
Armindo Monteiro (22)
Jose Monteiro (31)
Jose da Silva
Chiquito da Silva
Aquiles da Silva
Gilberto da Silva
and one other (name unknown)

Amnesty International is seriously concerned for the safety of 10 East Timorese men who have not been seen since military operations took place in their village on 15 November 1996.

According to reports, members of battalion 328 and 514 of *Kopassus* (Special Forces Command) surrounded houses in the hamlet of Waihulae, in the Viqueque district of East Timor in the early morning of 15 November. Six men, Antonio da Silva Monteiro, his brother Paulo da Costa, Armindo Monteiro, Jose Monteiro, Armindo da Silva and one other were arrested and taken to a military post at Buanurak hamlet.

Families of the six men went to the Buanurak military post to enquire about them, but were reportedly informed that all six had escaped from custody while being transported to the nearby town of Viqueque.

Another four men, Jose da Silva, Chiquito da Silva, Aquiles da Silva and Gilberto da Silva, have also not been seen since the 15 November and there is concern that they too may have been taken by the military.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Arbitrary detention, torture, "disappearance" and extrajudicial executions of individuals suspected of links with the resistance continue in East Timor. Individuals taken into custody are frequently denied access to independent lawyers, their families and medical assistance, placing them in danger of torture and possible "disappearance". The risk of human rights violations is increased by restrictions placed by the Indonesian authorities on access to East Timor for independent human rights monitors and foreign journalists.

Amnesty International, International Secretariat, 1 Easton Street, London WC1X 8DJ, United Kingdom

Tel: (44)(171) 413 5500 Fax: 956 1157 Telegrams: Amnesty London WC1 Telex: 28502 E-mail: uateam@amnesty.org

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes/express/airmail letters in Bahasa Indonesia, English or your own language:
- expressing concern that 10 men have been missing since a military operation in Waihulae, Viqueque district, East Timor, on 15 November;
- seeking assurances that, if the 10 men are in detention, they are not being subjected to torture or ill-treatment, that they are given access to legal representatives of their own choosing and to members of their families, and seeking clarification of their legal status and the reason for their arrests;
- urging that, if they are no longer in custody, the authorities hold an immediate inquiry into their current whereabouts;
- urging the authorities to ensure that any arrests are carried out only by members of the police force, in accordance with Indonesian domestic law.

APPEALS TO:

COMMANDER OF SPECIAL FORCES COMMAND (KOPASSUS)
Maj. Gen. Prabowo Subianto
Panglima Kopassus
Markas Besar ABRI
Cilangkap
Jakarta Timur
Indonesia
Telegrams: Panglima Kopassus, Jakarta Timur, Indonesia
Salutation: Dear Major General Prabowo Subianto

MILITARY COMMANDER REGION IX/UDAYANA
(covers Bali, Lombok, Nusa Tenggara and East Timor)
Maj Gen Rivai
Pangdam IX/Udayana
Markas Besar KODAM IX/Udayana
Denpasar
Bali, Indonesia
Telegrams: Pangdam IX, Udayana, Denpasar, Bali, Indonesia
Salutations: Dear Major General Mamuaya

COPIES TO:

INDONESIA NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS, EAST TIMOR OFFICE
Alex Refialy SH
Jalan Dr Antonio de Carvalho
Dili
East Timor

and to diplomatic representatives of Indonesia accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 31 December 1996.